

season and all deserve recognition for their exceptional achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the St. Mary's High School girls' lacrosse team on its exceptional season and 2005 IAAM A1 Conference Championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL TAYLOR B. PRAZYNSKI

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Marine Lance Corporal Taylor B. Prazynski. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Lance Corporal Prazynski leaves behind a legacy of honor, service, and inspiration to his family, to his friends, and to men and women who never had a chance to know him. His family and friends remember him as a jovial and compassionate man who was committed to bringing freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people and security to the American people.

Lance Corporal Prazynski also leaves behind a legacy of compassion from his work with his handicapped classmates while attending Fairfield High School. His interest in becoming a special education teacher illustrates his strength of character, and based on his reputation for being hard-working and dedicated to accomplishing his goals, I have no doubt he would have been an effective teacher and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Lance Corporal Prazynski's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Taylor, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIL WAR VETERAN ELISHA JOHNS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Civil War Veteran Elisha Johns, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage and valor as a Corporal

during the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi. This Saturday, May 28th, the Porter Township Board and the folks of Union, Michigan will honor Mr. Johns during a ceremony at his gravesite in Plum Grove Cemetery.

Elisha enlisted with the Union Army on August 9th, 1862, with whom he served until his discharge on June 6, 1865. After his enlistment, his leadership and courage was recognized by his superiors as he was made Corporal and promoted to Sergeant soon thereafter. His true valor was demonstrated on May 22, 1863, the date he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor.

It was the beginning of the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi and there was a call for volunteers to bridge a dike that was essential for a Union victory. Corporal Johns was one of 150 men that felt called to duty and valiantly set out to construct the bridge. Before they succeeded in bridging the dike, two-thirds of Elisha's fellow soldiers were shot and unable to go on. However, Corporal Johns and his peers boldly continued, while under intense Confederate fire, only to find his supporting soldiers had retreated. As it was early in the day, and military support lacking, Elisha was forced to hide along the base of the dike until darkness fell, when he was able to successfully get back to the Union lines. Forty years after his brave act, Corporal Johns was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As we come together as a Nation this Memorial Day, we honor the heroes of yesterday like Elisha Johns, who gave so much to our great Nation, and to honor those brave men and women of our armed forces who are on the front lines today, sacrificing so much in the name of freedom.

I commend all the folks of Union, Michigan, who are committed to preserving the history of our veterans, such as Corporal Johns, so generations to come will remember the sacrifices of their forefathers that played such a vital role in making our great Nation.

THE TRAGIC PASSING OF NEALE CHANEY SLATER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, late last month—on April 25, 2005—the family and friends of Neale Chaney Slater, the community of Mechanicsville, and the State of Maryland suffered a devastating loss when this caring and accomplished young man was struck down just as he was preparing to enter the prime of his life.

While driving out to help a local farmer, Neale, 20 years old, was killed in a tragic two-vehicle accident on Route 5 in Hughesville.

Yet, in such a short period of time, Neale gave so much to so many others.

At the age of 16, Neale joined the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, and had held the office of assistant secretary and treasurer.

Neale was a Firefighter II and certified emergency medical technician, and was recognized by his peers with the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department as "Rookie of the Year" in 2001. He also was awarded Fire Prevention Awards in 2001 and 2002.

"He told me he was following the family tradition," said Willie Wilkerson, president of the department, noting that Neale's grandfather and uncle had also been members of the department. "For such a short life, he got a lot accomplished."

That, in fact, is an understatement.

Neale was a 2003 honors graduate of the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy in Leonardstown, where he achieved the rank of Battalion Commander in his junior and senior years.

He also was awarded Midshipman of the Year in 2001, 2002, and 2003, and was also awarded the Military Excellence, Headmaster's and Loyalty Awards at graduation.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, this was an exceptional young man—a young man who envisioned a career in public service early on.

At the time of his passing, Neale was a Cadet in the Maryland State Police, which he joined in 2003. This coming fall, he was set to join the State Police Academy.

Without question, Neale embodied the best this country has to offer through his dedicated public service, his educational achievements, and the respect he had earned from all who knew him.

Neale was held in high regards by the community he served, and rightly so. Colonel Thomas E. Hutchins, Secretary of the Department of State Police, said that Neale was "a young man with a strong work ethic who was committed to doing his best in every mission he undertook."

Mr. Speaker, the passing of one's child, particularly one with so much to contribute to his community, his State and his Nation is as painful as it is incomprehensible.

Today, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Neale's parents, Eleanor Fowler Slater and Austin Joseph Slater, Sr., as well as all of his family members and friends.

I realize that these words are small solace. But I hope the Slaters, in time, find some comfort in the fact that they raised a truly fine young man who will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

The Slaters have established the Neale Slater Memorial Fund in his honor at the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy for a graduating senior intending to enter law enforcement.

I know the recipients of this scholarship will always be inspired by the example set by Neale, and the extraordinarily positive impact he had on his community will be felt for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO HEROES OF THE OREGON MOUNTAIN RIVER CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous men and women being honored on June 1, 2005 by the Oregon Mountain River Chapter of the Red Cross's inaugural Real Heroes ceremony in Bend, Oregon, which I will be honored to be part of. These men and women set themselves apart through selfless acts of heroism and kindness toward others. I would like to

share the stories that depict their unwavering commitment to their fellow citizens and their calm and collected action in the face of great challenge.

Mr. Speaker, Matthew Zedwick is one of the many courageous men and women who have served our country in Iraq as a member of the Oregon National Guard. On June 13, 2004, his quick action under pressure saved the life of his comrade, Sgt. Sean Davis. Sgt. Zedwick was driving a Humvee when two roadside bombs exploded near his convoy. Despite being wounded by shrapnel, Sgt. Zedwick dragged Truck Commander Sgt. Davis safely from a burning vehicle and then returned to the vehicle under heavy enemy fire in an attempt to retrieve the body of Spc. Eric McKinley, who had been killed in the blast. While he was unable to retrieve Spc. McKinley, he was able to retrieve a radio and call for help. His quick thinking and courage under fire saved his own life and the life of Sgt. Davis. For his actions, Sgt. Zedwick became the first Oregon National Guardsman since World War II to be awarded the Silver Star medal and a Purple Heart for his valor.

Jordan Bilyeu is another hero who endured the devastation of the Tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean in December of 2004. While vacationing in the Phi Phi Islands, off the shore of Thailand, Jordan was swept up in the water that unexpectedly came crashing toward the beachgoers. Jordan clung to a palm tree while riding out the worst of the Tsunami and eventually was swept into the third story of a nearby hotel. During this ordeal, Jordan was able to assist in the rescue of a woman who lost her legs who had also been pulled into that hotel room, and worked to assist others who had been injured in this tragic natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, in Deschutes County we owe thanks to several heroes for their quick action at work. On September 13, 2003, Al Ewing's, Corky Metteer's, Tim Wiley's, and Adam Carpenter's emergency efforts saved the life of Stu Martinez when he lapsed out of consciousness. Stu's colleagues quickly ran to his rescue and performed CPR techniques until medical help could arrive. These employees at Wilderness Garbage in La Pine were prepared to react after taking critical life saving and CPR classes administered by the Oregon Mountain River Chapter of the Red Cross one month before.

Deschutes County District Attorney Mike Dugan is another hero who helped avert another tragic accident on the job and saved the life of a young boy in the Deschutes County Courtroom. When a young child started choking on a large piece of candy, District Attorney Dugan rushed to assist the child and used an abdominal thrust technique to dislodge the candy from his throat. The entire episode took only a few seconds, but it is an act that this young child will remember for the rest of his life.

Kathleen Krahmer is a hero whose day-to-day efforts impact the lives of many in her community. On May 23, 2005, Kathleen donated her 57th pint of blood, for an astonishing total of more than seven gallons of blood donated to the Red Cross. Not only is Kathleen a blood donor, but every winter she knits hats and donates them to local schools or to the Bethlehem Inn, a homeless shelter in Bend. This, Mr. Speaker, is just the beginning of her service to others. She is actively involved in the Sparrow Club, an organization

that helps critically ill children, and has helped collect money for the Tsunami Relief program. As a teacher she is an inspiration and exemplary example to her students and her fellow citizens and has shown that countless acts of kindness truly do make a significant difference.

Mr. Speaker, the next individual I'd like to honor demonstrates that you can be a hero at any age. Spencer Brennan has already made a significant impact on those around him at the age of 14 and I'm sure that his tradition of helping others will continue for many years. As a young child Spencer fell very ill, but he battled back to overcome his illness and never gave up during his most difficult challenges. Now, he works for the benefit of other children as a 'volunteer for the Sparrow Club. For the last two years, Spencer has worked to raise money for the Sparrow Club and to support other children who face medical crisis. For his service, he was awarded the prestigious "Dameon Award" for his compassion, courage, character and conscience.

The next hero I would like to highlight, Kim Meeder, is an individual who has worked very hard to make a difference in the life of troubled teens, abused kids and adults across Oregon and our nation. The work being done by Kim and her husband Troy at the Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch is tremendous. Kim has helped pair abused and neglected horses with troubled individuals seeking solitude and comfort. The ranch gives these individuals a place to rekindle their spirits and recover from the problems of their past.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by talking about a collaborative effort in central Oregon that provides medical coverage for those without coverage. Since opening just over a year ago, the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic has completed approximately 5,000 free examinations in Deschutes County. Three of these volunteers have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Dr. Tom McGranahan, a retired anesthesiologist, has worked over 600 hours assisting doctors and training others in the use of new electronic medical records while serving as the clinic's resident computer expert. Cindy Cocanower, an area pharmacist, has utilized her expertise so the organization can provide medications at little or no cost to VIM patients. She has donated over 200 hours of her time and expertise and spent countless hours working on similar endeavors outside the clinic. Sharon Lichti, a retired college professor, has been the lead volunteer charged with training dozens of new volunteers since the opening of the clinic. The contributions of these individuals have provided medical coverage for many uninsured individuals throughout central Oregonian, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals being honored on June 1 demonstrate that each of us can be a hero in our community and we are grateful for all that they've done and continue to do.

CELEBRATING HAL AND TINA SMITH FOR 65 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal and Tina Smith for the dedica-

tion they have shown to each other over their 65 years of marriage.

On June 1, 1940, Hal Smith and Tina Ball were married. Through 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 (soon to be five) great-grandchildren, they have been a shining example of unconditional love and mutual respect for each other and those they come to meet.

This dedication to, and respect for, each other has been the key to a successful marriage for all these years. During their life together, they have raised a beautiful family—a family strengthened by the strong morals and humanistic values they embodied for their children.

They have lived their lives free from regret and have persevered and overcome any trial that has come their way. Hal and Tina have always held family to be paramount and have engendered this legacy of love in their children.

Aside from the strong family values that they have demonstrated, they also have a love of travel, and they have always emphasized the importance of learning and education in their family, which echoes their strong belief that they must leave this world a better place than they found it. Tina expressed this through her work with museums; Hal through his political career.

Mr. Speaker, these 2 individuals have been like a second set of parents to my wife, Laurie and I. They are a very important part of our lives. Their great influence has been a constant in our lives as they have loved and supported us over the years and throughout my political career. We are proud to be among the privileged group they call their friends. Their commitment to each other and to their community is deserving of recognition and honor, so it is a pleasure for me today to salute this marvelous couple. I encourage all of my colleagues to salute such wonderful examples of family values, like Hal and Tina Smith.

DISCUSSING THE PERILS OF CAFTA WITH LEGISLATORS FROM CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I welcomed legislators from Central American countries to discuss the perils of CAFTA. I submit my opening remarks for the RECORD.

Thank you all for coming to this important briefing on how the Dominican-Republic Central American Free Trade Agreement was passed in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. I would like to thank Congressman Becerra for hosting this briefing with me, and of course, the Central American legislators for traveling up here to share their experiences with us.

There are innumerable reasons to oppose CAFTA, in the United States and in Central America. Governments will have little to no control over the investments of foreign companies, and foreign investors will not have to comply with International Labor Organization standards when they invest in Central American business ventures. Workers' rights will be undermined, especially for women workers, farmers and maquila workers. The current labor rights abuses prevalent in